



# Newsletter

## 10th June, 2022

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Welcome back to school everyone, and to the final term of the school year; it looks like we'll complete a full school year for the first time in a long time! I hope you all enjoyed the half term break, especially the extra long bank holiday weekend.

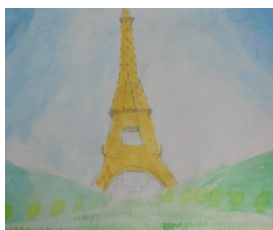
On 1st June, St James' became an Academy and joined the Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust. We are all really looking forward to working with the Trust and enjoying some of the freedoms that becoming an Academy will bring. Officially, we are now known as St James' CofE Academy, but will continue to call ourselves St James' Primary School to reflect that, in the most part, not much has changed!

At this time of year, we always seem to have so much going on—we start to get ready for the new school year ahead and have all sorts of transition activities happening. This week, we welcomed families of children who will be starting school in September, and our current Robins had a visit into Year 1 to see what their new classroom will look like. We also have a lot of sporting events happening—as I write children in Years 5 and 6 are at a cricket tournament, and earlier this week, Whinchats enjoyed their multi-sports events. Elsewhere in school, Green Jays have been exploring colour tints in art, and Kingfishers have been sharing their home learning projects—I always enjoy seeing children taking on the role of the teacher and preparing presentations to deliver to their classmates to share their learning. The Statutory testing and screening season continues: Children in Years 1 and 2 have completed the statutory phonics screening check, Mr Leach has attended a moderation session for Year 6 writing, and children in Year 4 are getting ready for their multiplication tables check.

Next week sees more sports events for Years 5 and 6, a whole school athletics event, this term's Art Day (with a focus on sculpture) and this year's Bend The Rules Day on Friday.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy weekend,

Maria & all the team at St James'



### Staffing Update

Unfortunately, Mrs Corby continues to be unwell; Ms Dimmock will continue to cover her absence.



## Annual Sports Day & Picnic Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022



@ Biddenham International School

Leave school at 9am - if you can help walk the children down please let your child's class teacher know.

Then walk back to school to share a family picnic on the field.



### Congratulations to St James'

We have been awarded the School Games Gold Award for another year, reflecting our commitment to providing lots of different ways for children to keep active throughout the school year. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are so grateful to Mrs Hawkins and the whole staff team for all their hard work in this area of school life!



Please remember we are a 'nut free' school—we have a number of children who have serious nut allergies.

Please do not bring any nut based foods into school.

## School Traffic Matters

Thank you to all of you who work with the school to keep drop off and pick up times as safe as possible for everyone.

We have been informed that the pub car park is due to be resurfaced at the latter end of next week. There will be a number of additional work vans along Main Road, which will make parking more difficult than usual. Please adapt your usual routine to park further away from school and walk the final part of your journey to school.

Please also see the letter below, received from the Day's Lane Residents' Association:

*Dear Ms Soulsby*

*I am the Chair of the Day's Lane Residents' Association which organises the repair of this private road to ensure it is maintained in reasonable condition. The road is formally a public bridleway, used by a variety of foot traffic, including cyclists and I am writing to seek your assistance with a potential safety issue in the lane.*

*In the past few years, there has been increasing numbers of road users, largely due to the many new homes that have been built in the area. In parallel to this, there has been an increase in vans with home deliveries and building works has made this former quiet road much busier, all of which pose additional dangers to those who walk, scoot or cycle along it; we also believe that the foot traffic will increase as more homes are built. In addition, Day's Lane does not have a footpath dedicated for such users and there are areas where it isn't possible to see vehicle traffic far ahead. Unfortunately it isn't possible to fully regulate the speed of traffic nor the possibility of unauthorised vehicles that use the road as a cut through and I am sure you can see the issue here.*

*We are mindful that this road provides a popular route for parents and children to travel to and from St James and we have observed an increase in the number of parents with groups of children who might be on scooters and bicycles, as well as groups on foot. Unsurprisingly, with such groups of parents and children, there is a tendency for them to spread out across the road as well as some children, no doubt in high spirits at home time, becoming detached from their parents and therefore failing to take sufficient notice of the potential for vehicles in the road. It is of great concern to us that all users are kept safe when travelling along Day's Lane.*

*It is with these concerns in mind that I wonder if I might ask that parents and children at St. James be reminded of the importance of basic road safety when using Day's Lane (and, of course, other roads). The typical things I am thinking of are:*

*Pedestrians keeping to the side of the road and avoiding the middle where there may be oncoming cars;*

*Cyclists / scooter-users also keeping to the left side of the road;*

*Parents ensuring all the children in their care are kept close by and under their supervision.*

*One final point, if I may, is that there is an increase in cars using the lane as a cut through on their journey back and forth to school. We appreciate that recent road works on Bromham Road have made Day's Lane an easy route to avoid traffic jams but it is a private road and no unauthorised vehicles are permitted. Not only are such drivers contravening the Road Traffic Order in place, but they are contributing to the potential dangers for foot traffic.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Will Jenkin, Day's Lane Residents' Association, Chair*

### Term Dates

13th June	Y5/6 Quad Kids Athletics
16th June	Whole school Athletics Festival—all children to wear PE Uniform
17th June	Bend the Rules Day
20th June	Kingfishers Trip to Naughty Pizza School Office closed today, urgent contact only, please
21st June	Y5/6 Girls Football tournament Robins Hearing Screening
28th June	Green Jays Trip to Marston Vale Forest
29th June	PSA Sponsored Scoot
1st July	Sports Day & Family Picnic
w/b 4th July	Various Transition Days for Year 6 pupils moving into secondary school
5th July	Robins & Whinchats Trip to Woburn
6th July	Kingfishers & Peacocks Stem Fair
8th July	Peacocks Trip to Box End
13th July	Moving Up morning—children spend time in new classes Parents Evening to discuss end of year reports queries, if necessary 4.00-7.00
18th July	Green Jays & Kingfishers concert at the Corn Exchange
19th July	Proms in the Playground 'Best of British' - whole school from 5.30pm
20th July	Leaver's Service 2.00pm
21st July	Last Day of term, own clothes, 1.30pm finish
22nd July	Jubilee Holiday

This term's Curriculum News will be sent home on Monday.



# Plant Sale

St James' PSA Pop-Up Plant Stall to raise funds for the school.

**Suggested donation £1 per plant**

*\* If you also have any surplus plants that you would like to donate to our stall it would be very much appreciated, please label them and add them to the table.*



**Coming soon!**

## PSA Bend the Rules Day

Next Friday, bend as many rules as you'd like and pay the fine! Paper copies of sign up sheets have been sent home, or you can email [office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk](mailto:office@stjamesvaschool.co.uk) with your order.





## Sunflower Diaries competition for Biddenham Village Show (at St James VA School on Sunday 11th September 2022)

After two years of covid restrictions Biddenham Village Show is back for **September 11th 2022!** This is a village show that has been running since around 1865, so there is a lot of history, and it needs everyone's support to keep it going!

There will be a series of competitions posted throughout the next half term for all age groups of children to enter. The first competition is for everyone!

### SUNFLOWER COMPETITION!

#### Competition rules;

1. Plant your sunflower seed (ideally now!)
2. Photograph the milestones of your sunflower growing
3. Add a few words to your photographs to explain what is happening, where it is growing (your house, grandparents' house, school etc...) and how high it is reaching.
4. Height measurement is from the base of the stem at soil level to the top of the stem (where the stem meets the flower). The stem can be extended to measure the full height of the plant.

Width measurement is the diameter of the seed head over the top of the flower (excluding the petals).

If you would like to email your progress, please ask your parent/carer to email the address below and we will post your updates on the Biddenham show website <http://www.biddenhamshow.org/>.

**By 1st September**, measure your sunflower **height and seed head width** by taking a photo with a **tape measure by the side** (a person may be in the photo holding the measure).

(photographs will appear on the website and at the Show, so by emailing you are giving us permission to use your photograph)

*Please don't forget to include your school year (or state over 19 if an adult), your name and address in your entry.*

Post your diary (if you kept one) and final photographs to [biddenhamsunflowers@gmail.com](mailto:biddenhamsunflowers@gmail.com) by 1st September.



## Walk & Talk with Mel

During Summer Holidays for anyone aged **7-13 years old**.

**50min walk** around Priory Marina Bedford, one to one or small groups max of 4.

Focusing on **building confidence and resilience** in preparation for returning to education in September or starting university.

The walk will consist of, **Listening, talking, mindful practices and coping strategies for anxiety.** \*

- **Thursday Mornings**
- **28th July**
- **4th August**
- **11th August**
- **18th August**
- **25th August**

Book on one or all five, £45 per session.

Email me [mpositivetherapy@gmail.com](mailto:mpositivetherapy@gmail.com)

I am a school counsellor and private counsellor, fully DBS checked and member of BACP and insured for walk and talk through Holistic Insurance.

